

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes

January 26, 2009

Members Present: Sandy Thomason, Jim Thompson, Tom Hodges, David Jerosé, Tom Parmelee, Lisa Curran, and Commissioner Margaret Stinnett.

Members Absent: David Faircloth, Tom Shipman, and Lacusia Green

Staff Present: Susan Simpson, Parks and Recreation Director

CALL TO ORDER

Vice -Chairperson Sandy Thomason called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

MINUTES

ACTION: Tom Hodges made a motion to approve the minutes. Jim Thompson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

WELCOME - NEW MEMBERS

Members welcomed Tom Parmelee to the Board. He introduced himself to the board. Mr. Parmelee is in medical services and he has young children, so he has an interest in parks & recreation programs and wants to give back to the community. Each member went around the table and introduced themselves and told how long they have served and their interest.

ITEMS FOR AGENDA FROM BOARD MEMBERS

David Jerose asked to add an announcement under New Business. It will be item 7 d.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Simpson gave an athletic update. Youth basketball is in its fourth week and things are going well. The snow the other week did cause for re-scheduling on the 24th. Heritage Middle School which is one of our game locations had school in session so games had to be moved to the afternoon. All 5-6 year old games had to be rescheduled because teams don't have the minimum required to fill teams with Saturday school. Youth baseball and softball registration will begin February 2 and run through February 27. Lisa Curran asked about a link on the website for the registration. Ms. Simpson said that she would check on this. The Dream League registration is also during this time. That league is for children with special needs. Adult softball registration begins in February too.

Ms. Simpson reported on the programs for the months of December and January. There were four programs offered during December with 1015 participants. Two special events; a puppet show at Jones Dairy Elementary and the annual Calls From Santa program make up the majority of that number. In January, the department offered twenty three programs with 186 participants.

Director Simpson reported that maintenance crews have completed their work on fields at Smith Creek and Flaherty Park. The new wrought iron fence at the Community House is complete. Seeding of the large dog park was done during December.

The attendance at the Flaherty Park Community Center for the month of November was 2740 and for December 3699.

Ms. Simpson gave the year-end report for 2008. She went over the numbers for athletics, programs, business contributions, pool attendance, swim lessons, and the attendance at the Flaherty Park Community Center. The total for the year was 62,991. Ms. Simpson also highlighted the departments accomplishments and the outside groups that the department works with during the year. Commissioner Stinnett asked if the Town Board gets a copy of the report? Ms. Simpson stated that she use to give it at the annual Board retreat, but had not in the past several years. Commissioner Stinnett requested that all Board members get a copy. Ms. Simpson said that she would email them the report by the end of the week.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Simpson gave an update on Joyner Park Phase I. The completion date has been moved to March 30. By the end of February, members should be able to see exactly all the elements and have a better grasp of what the park will look like. Ms. Simpson said that the department would certainly want to have a ribbon-cutting ceremony and she would want the board to have a part in the festivities.

Taylor Street park renovations are behind schedule due to the rain and snow. Work is set to be completed on March 15. David Jerosé asked about the playground for the park. Ms. Simpson said that the East End group selected the elements that would be on site. Lisa Curran mentioned that the neighborhood did not want a play system, but just individual pieces.

Tom Hodges gave a report on the Citizen Board Member (CBM) Forum. He met with Mike Waters and Bernadette White to begin work on a theme and topics for sessions. The entire planning committee will be meeting on Thursday, January 29 in Greensboro. Mr. Hodges passed out topic sessions and asked members to rank those of interest.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Simpson spent a few minutes giving the board an update on the economic forecast for the Town as a whole and the department. Ms. Simpson stated that the Town is in good shape financially due in large part to a conservative Finance Director and Town Manager. There are no lay-offs scheduled, but each department has been asked to look at expenses and not purchasing if they don't absolutely need it. The department did postpone the hiring of the two additional programmers (Cultural Arts and Urban Forester), but will be able to hire the two Facility Maintenance Specialist employees. David Jerose mentioned that the Chamber of Commerce will be hosting an Economic Forecast forum on February 10 at 8 a.m. in the Mill Room at The Factory.

Director Simpson passed out a summery sheet of the Capital Improvements Plan for FY 2009-2014. She discussed the priorities for the coming five years. The five year request is approximately \$14 million with the two big ticket items being Joyner Park Phase II and III and greenway construction. Ms. Simpson explained that the CIP is a forecast of needs and is a tool used in budgeting.

The next item of business was the appointment of a nominating committee for the election of officers at the February meeting. Vice-Chairperson Sandy Thomason appointed Tom Shipman, Lisa Curran, and Jim Thompson to the committee. They will present a slate of candidates for Chair and Vice-Chair at the February meeting. Tom Shipman will chair the committee.

David Jerose made the board aware that the Wake Forest Tennis Association will be receiving a North Carolina Tennis Association award at there annual luncheon in Pinehurst. Five members of the local association will be attending and they have invited Ms. Simpson to join them since the local tennis program is run utilizing Parks & Recreation courts. The luncheon is Saturday, January 30.

Ms. Simpson mentioned the annual Advisory Board dinner hosted by the Mayor and Town Board. Each member should have received an invitation from the Town Clerk. The dinner is scheduled for Monday, February 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the Forks cafeteria.

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ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Susan Simpson, Secretary

Sandy Thomason, Vice-Chairperson